

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PRESS RELEASE

## U.S. Government Funds Access to Online Academic Journals

Teachers, students, and researchers in Macedonia now have free access to a rich source of information, thanks to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia. USAID's Creative Teaching and Learning (CTL) project, implemented by the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia, has arranged Internet access until October 2008 for Macedonian educators and scholars to a wide range of academic materials, including journals that publish academic papers and research findings.

"Now a professor in Macedonia can look up and read a paper written by someone in his or her field from anywhere in the world," said Miodrag Dadasovic, the Macedonian e-Libraries Consortium Coordinator. "For example, an archeologist could search for papers on conservation, a medical student could learn the latest about drugs for heart disease, or a teacher could learn about a new student-centered teaching method."

The project is organized by the University Library "Sv. Kliment Ohridski," the Macedonian e-libraries Consortium, and EBSCO Information Service.

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <a href="http://macedonia.usaid.gov">http://macedonia.usaid.gov</a>

Since 2002, USAID's Creative Teaching and Learning Project (CTL) has introduced student-centered teaching methods, established media labs in 45 primary and 18 secondary schools with new computers and internet connectivity; and introduced new theories of whole-school improvement and extra-curricular activities such as debate and student government. In 2005, CTL expanded to pre-service teacher training institutes to ensure that future teachers start their jobs prepared with student-centered teaching methods and strong information technology skills. In October 2006, USAID funded multi-media labs, simulation classrooms, and physical renovations at teaching colleges in Skopje, Bitola and Stip. Similar renovations are in the planning stages for teachers' institutes at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics-Tetovo; Faculty of Humanitarian Sciences and Arts-Tetovo; Faculty of Philosophy-Skopje; Faculty of Philology-Skopje, and Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics-Skopje.